

The 50 MHz DX Bulletin

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The 50 MHz DX Bulletin was founded by Harry Schools KA3B. This issue was edited by Shel Remington, N16E/KH6, and was published by Victor Frank, K6FV. It is dedicated to the understanding and utilization of long distance propagation in the 6-meter Amateur band. Your publisher intends to publish one current issue per month along with one technical issue for each of the months missed during 1992 and 1993. Circulation matters and DX reports should be sent to Victor Frank, K6FV, 12450 Skyline Blvd., Woodside, CA 94062-4541 USA. The Bulletin may be freely quoted, provided that credit is given.

Deleted countries worked and accredited include OK and KZ5.

The 6-meter tally now looks like this: of 326 countries, 256 are known to have been worked, and 197 are known to have been credited on one or more 6m DXCC awards. Just 70 to go!

Status of DXCC Countries on 6m

This feature, which is unique to this publication, and which was last printed in the 1992 August 31 issue, has had little additional input or comment from readers. The only additions to the "D" (accredited) column have come from recent DXCC awardees Alain ON4KST and N16E/KH6. This time, to reduce the space used, we will use prefixes, rather than full country names; perhaps this will be more familiar to some DXers. Sure some of our Japanese, European, and eastern North American readers can add a few more countries to this list.

Oceania: All 53 countries are known to have been worked except T31. Countries worked but not known to have been accredited on anyone's 6m DXCC award are KH1, KH5k, T33, VK9m, VK9w, and 9M6.

Asia: All 51 countries are known to have been worked except AP, A4, A6, A7, EP, JY, UD, UG, UH, UI, UJ, UM, VUa, VU1, XY, YA, YI, YK, and 7O. Countries worked but not known to have been accredited on anyone's 6m DXCC award are A5, BY, HS, HZ, JT, S2, UA0, VU, XU, XV, XW, 1S, 4S, 8Q, 9M2, 9N, and 9V. That status would also include P5 (North Korea), which has not yet been officially added to the DXCC list.

North America: All 48 countries are known to have been worked. Countries worked but not known to have been accredited on anyone's 6m DXCC award are CY0sp, KP1, TI9, and YV0.

South America and Antarctica: All 31 countries are known to have been worked except HK0m, KC4, the four southern VP8's, and 3Yp. The only country worked but not known to have been accredited on anyone's 6m DXCC award is PY0t.

Europe: All 66 countries are known to have been worked except HA, JW, SV/A, SV5, SV9, UB, UC, UO, 3A, and 4K2. Countries worked but not known to have been accredited on anyone's 6m DXCC award are EA6, ES, JX, LY, OJ0, the new OK and OM, S5, TK, UA, YL, 4J1, 4N4, and 9A.

Africa: All 77 countries are known to have been worked except C9, D2, FR/J, FR/T, FT8W, FT8X, J2, ST, ST0, S9, TJ, TT, TN, TZ, T5, VK0h, XT, ZD9, 3B6, 3B8, 3B9, 3C, 3C0, 3V, 3Yb, 5A, 5R, 5T, 5U, 5X, 5Z, 9G, and 9U. Countries worked but not known to have been accredited on anyone's 6m DXCC award are D4, EA9, ET, FH, FR, FR/G, FT8Z, SU, S7, S0, TY, VQ9, ZD7, ZS1, ZS8, and 7X.

Propagation Summary

Luck is when Preparation meets Opportunity.
—Ansel Adams.

Expectations dictate results.—anonymous.

Chip N6CA opines that the overall 1993 spring season was better than the 1992 spring season. Here in Hawaii, the season peaked (statistically) on March 15, which is 18 days earlier than the 1989-92 average. A similar early peak can be seen in the reports below; a much higher level of geomagnetic activity in March than in April was probably the primary reason.

No definite long-path propagation has been reported yet in 1993. But the remarkable antipodal path between the Far East (JA2/5/6/9-JR6-VS6) and South America (PY2/4/5-ZP5-LU_M-CE3) has opened on numerous occasions, sometimes with huge signal strengths. These events were reported in the 0030-0440 period on January 28-29 (!), February 10, 17, 20, 26, March 3, 7-9, and 21.

Other many-hop east-west F₂ events were relatively scarce. PY5CC heard the 7Q7/b on February 28 at 1100-1155. VR6JJ had EA8 and S0 on March 3 at 0008-0040, TU on March 7 at 2103, and CN8 on March 8 at 2045. VR6JJ had VK4 via sidescatter (both sides beaming KH6) on March 13, 14, 30, April 3 and 6 in the period 0257-0630. The ZD8 beacon was into Hawaii on March 15 at 2056-2104. FO3BM had P29CW on March 23, 24, 30, and April 4 around 0220-0400; Philippe also had a sidescatter opening to VK2/4 on April 10 at 0249-0308. HC1BIK had 3D2 on March 30 at 0305-0358 and April 3 at 0245; during the former event, Beni also worked P29CW. ZL4AAA traded 'heard' reports with PY5CC April 5 at about 2100.

VR6JJ had a wealth of openings eastward into ZF, 6Y5, CO, HH, KP4, FM, VP2m, J3, HC, P4, PJ9, YV, FY, 9Y, ZD8, PY0f, PY, CX, ZP, LU, CE3, and even XQ0X in the period 1700-0442 on February 21-24, 28, every day in March except the 7th [and the 15th through the 19th, when Nob went to Oeno], April 1-4, 8, and 10-11. A few of these were scatter paths, but most were direct F₂.

Intensive efforts on the difficult Pitcairn-to-Japan path yielded brief openings in the period 0048-0308 on February 8, 18, March 5, 9, 27, April 2-3, and 6. Interestingly, the footprint was usually too small for the UA/BY 49.75 video to be heard in Pitcairn during these events.

The south Pacific-to-North America paths went into hibernation for 35 days after January 14. Then openings involving ZL-VR6-3D2 and TI-TG-V3-XE-W4/5/6/7/0 were reported in the 1903-0421 period on February 18-19,

22, 24, 26-27, March 2, 4, 6, 9-10, 12, 15, 17, 19-27, 30-31, April 1, 3-4, 6-8, 10, 14, 17, and 27. A few of the highlights follow. On March 22 at 2345, NOLL hooked up with VR6JJ. On March 30 at 1903 the New Orleans beacon was into VR6JJ, followed at 2025 by a QSO between 3D2PO and WA5UFH. VR6JJ had a 1-way with K5ZXE on April 1 at 2330. VR6JJ worked Florida and Louisiana on April 3 from 2248 (Nob had 16 countries that day!). On March 19, N6XQ fired up the amplifier and worked VK4BRG at 2321 for the only known VK-W QSO of the season, although the MUF was reported to be over 46 MHz on that path several times. Only one F-region opening was observed in Alaska, when NL7OW heard VK4 and ZL1 on March 9 at 0245. This was during a magstorm-onset event, with 6m DX ricocheting in all directions around the Pacific while aurora was being observed as far south as Kansas.

The U.S.-to-South America events started with a bang when on February 9 at 2340 PY5CC started hearing the W2CAP/1 beacon. The bang turned into a whimper because, after 40 minutes of propagation, Peter did not succeed in raising anyone in the northeast on 6m or 28885. The following openings all occurred in the 1820-2340 period, and were associated with geomagnetic disturbances. Texas had LU on March 3; California and Arizona had PY, CX, and LU on March 8 and 9; W5-6-7-0 all had CX and LU on March 11; W5 had HC and LU on March 13; W5-6 had LU and CX on March 15; W4-5 had LU and CX on March 16; W5OZI had CE8BHI on March 18; later that day, Florida had LU; Louisiana had CX on March 20; W5 had CX and LU on March 22; W4-5-6 and Illinois had CX and LU on March 24; W5 had CX and LU on March 25; W6 had YV on March 26; W4-5 had PY-ZP-LU on March 27, W4-5 had CX-LU-CE on March 28; W5-6 had P4-HC-LU on March 30; W5 had LU on April 2 and 3. The biggest footprint occurred on April 4 from 1920 to 2045—everyone from Maine to San Diego had some mixture of FM, J3, FY, YV, HC, CX, and LU, during which the northeasterners also had aurora into Newfoundland. K1TOL had HC1BI April 8, and W6 had J3 and LU. W4-5 had CX and LU on April 9; Florida had the same on April 10; Texas had LU on April 11. Things went quiet on the band and in the magnetosphere until April 22, when California had DX. The final opening was on April 28, when California and Arizona had LU. Every U.S. call area had at least one of these openings.

South Americans reported the path open to southern Europe and northern Africa on February 5, 9, 14, 23, 25, 27-28, March 1-2, 4-6, 8-9, 18, 21, April 1, 6, and surprisingly, May 12-13.

Indian Ocean: Okinawa and Hong Kong had propagation to Malawi, Madagascar, and Reunion in the period 0750-1230 on February 22, March 6-9, 18, 20, 22-24, 26-31, and April 2. On the other diagonal, just one Europe-to-Australia opening was reported: on February 21 at 0840-0852, VK4FP worked DK5UG.

Here in Hawaii, we had Perth on January 18 at 0356-0512; VK6JQ and all other corners of Australia were in many times as late as May 11. VS6, HL, JA and/or DU were in on February 7, 10, March 3, 5, 7-15, 17-18, 20-22, 24-27, 29-30, April 3, 7, 10-11, and May 9.

Ordinary darkness TEP paths worldwide were open on the usual near-daily basis. These include VK-to-JA, VK4-to-KH6, PY to Centroamerica and the West Indies, southern Africa to Mediterranean, etc. South Americans were into Hawaii as usual many times this season, the last being HC2FG on May 2. As we get farther from the equinox, these paths

contract longitudinally so that, here in early June, ZK1AJJ is into Hawaii on a nightly basis, but the KH6 paths to VK and South America are basically closed. Overall, it appears that the approaching sunspot minimum is not greatly diminishing TEP.

There have been quite a few multi-hop sporadic-E events already. The longest involved Ohio and Michigan into Hawaii (7000 km) on May 23 between about 1800 and 1920. The eastern U.S. had at least one opening into Europe in late May.

Perhaps the most important lesson of Cycle 22 for 6-meter F₂ is that its temporal distribution differs by latitude to a very considerable degree. For example, on the Europe- and Japan-to-North America direct paths, the cycle peaked nicely in 1989-91, then the door slammed shut. By contrast, for paths whose midpoints were closer to the equator, such as W6 to ZL, KH6 to ZD8, and JA to LU, things continued hot in 1992, and even 1993 has been quite lively. So when a QST VHF editor in W1 wrote a year ago that it looked like worldwide F₂ was finished, it was an accurate statement for his path to Europe, but not for the many other paths that ought to be considered when the adjective 'worldwide' is used. Such writers cannot be faulted too heavily, it should be noted, if these errors result from a lack of reports received from lower-latitude DXers. But the lesson remains that one should not characterize the F-layer for the entire planet based on data from high latitudes. This parallels the situation vis-a-vis the solar flux/MUF relation: what seems to work in the small, peculiar sector of the North Atlantic can be, and actually (we have learned) is, very different from observations elsewhere.

The coming of age of Six Meter DXing has brought the realization that it is a global band, and conditions in the nursery of VHF DXing (the northeastern U.S.) are atypical of what goes on in larger sectors elsewhere that we now know to be better situated for long-haul F-region DXing.

Quote without comment: 'A high A number means that too much of the short-circuiting X-ray radiation is discharging the ionosphere.'—John Beck on HCJB's *Ham Radio Today*, March 31.

I have received a number of reports additional to Shel's, and will be interleaving them with his, using this font
—VRF.

News of Oceania

Baker and Howland: The big AH1A DXpedition was operational on 6m January 26 to February 2. Operator Arie (PA3DUU) worked many JA stations on his very first day, in the period 0030-0730Z. No contacts were made outside Japan, not even into KH6 (distance 3150 km). A 6m E-M-E sked with K6QXY also failed. The moral is that late January is a blackout period for 6m in the Pacific, as Kiyoko T31KY also discovered two years when she made zero contacts on 6m. The 1989-93 DX statistics in KH6 show a deep dip in the last week of January, unequaled by anything except the summer months. Curious, but real.

Brunei: Louie, HL9UH, reports working Peter, V85PB, March 14 at 0910.

East Malaysia: 9M6HF worked JA stations on December 5 around 0230Z, and on other occasions. Tnx JA1VOK. He operates only on 50.110 CW, due to limits on his license. Tnx JG3KUT. Nothing further is yet known about this station, but see West Malaysia below (in Asia) with a similar callsign.

G4SMC/9M6 was active in Kota-Kinabalu, Sabah (OJ85) from about April 10 to May 30; also G3FEB/9M6 was expected to be active. Tnx VK4TL et. al.

Louie, HL9UH, reports working G4SMC/9M6 May 1 at 0720, May 2 at 0822, May 10 at 0950, and May 11 at 0936.

VHF-UHF DXer 5/93 reports that the G4SMC/9M6 team up to May 11 had made approx 900 contacts with JA, about 260 of them on May 11. They also worked XU0UN, V85PB (G3ZSS), VK8RH, VK8ZAB, and two HL's.

Federated States of Micronesia: HL9UH reports working V63AO at Pohnpei, April 10 at 0759.

Fiji: HL9UH reports working 3D2PO on April 7 at 0809.

Guam: HL9UH reports working KG6DX on March 14 at 0720.

Hawaiian Islands: Bob ZL4AAA, who is adroit at discovering sub-50 MHz indicators, suggests the following frequencies for those desiring early warning of propagation to KH6. All are narrow-band FM, intermittent-duty. 35.68 pager, often has carrier stuck on for an hour at a time. 38.30 USAF/Army artillery range control on an outer island (perhaps Pohakuloa Training Area, between Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa—ed.), frequently heard 0200-0500Z. 43.04 construction company with workers having heavy Texas/SW USA accents, frequently heard 0100-0500Z. 44.56 Airport Motor Coach, Inc., Honolulu. 46.05 First West Travel. 47.72 mobile phone. 47.94 GASCO, Inc. 48.54 Hawaii Electric Light Company. Tnx Bob.

Kingman and Palmyra: The KH5 DXpedition never got on 6m, despite having multiple 6m rigs and at least three operators with 6m experience. The original plan was to leave the N6AMG Memorial 6m Station on the KH5-bound boat after returning from the KH1 operation, but in the great confusion as the KH5 group prepared to sail from Honolulu, this equipment was cast aside. However, two new IC-575's were provided by the ICOM factory, and these were checked and then paired with two small yagis (loaned by KH6's) and placed on the two boats.

At Kingman Reef, a 6m yagi was erected, but then the IC-575 was discovered to be inoperative. Meanwhile, the other boat arrived at Palmyra, but NH6UY was so busy with satellite activity that he was unable to find the time to set up on 6m. Finally the good transceiver was ferried over to Kingman, but the group was by then in a rush to pack up and get back to Honolulu, so again there was no time available for six. The irony is that during this mid-March period, there was a magnetic storm in progress, so HF conditions were poor, while 6m was at its best. Here in Hawaii, we could hear practically every 6m DXer in the Pacific forlornly calling CQ KH5 on 50.110, while we listened to the KH5's on HF trying to force the path open into Europe, with little success.

One of the KH5 DXpedition boats claimed to have an operational 6m station en route, but they said all they worked was a T32. As we all know, there is no 6m operator at T32.

The good news is that there is already some discussion of a return trip to Kingman. Also, there is a possibility that a resort may eventually be constructed on Palmyra, complete with air service, and from there it is only a 60 km boat trip to Kingman Reef. Tnx KH6HH.

Mellish Reef: A DXpedition here is scheduled for September 19-28. There will be 5 or 6 operators, and 50 MHz will 'definitely' be included. The 6m operating will probably be

handled by Atsu VK2BEX; he was the 6m operator at VK9WW last year. VK4CRR is the leader; more operators are desired, and details can be secured via ON4ACG. Also, donations are requested via WA4DAN. Tnx VR6JJ, VK7IK, INDEXA, and W1AW.

Midway: In response to a query in our 93Jan15 issue regarding the whereabouts of KH4AE, I found the following return address on the envelope of a QSL I received last winter; Art Edmonds, KH4AE/KH2 General Delivery, Inarajan, Guam, 96917. The QSL, by the way indicated a QSO date of 10/20/92; one year after the actual QSO. Now the question is: should I return the card, asking for a corrected one; and risk the only KH4 card I have getting lost in the mails?

Minami-Torishima: Jimmy JH1MAO/JD1 popped up on 28885 to say he was QRV 50.110 until March 18, but nobody reported hearing him on 6m.

Nauru: Brian, C21BR pulled the plug in February and went home to ZL. QSLs can be sent to ZL1ACX. Tnx VK4CY.

New Caledonia: About the only activity here this past season has been by new operator Guy FK8DH. He runs 20 watts to a dipole from his QTH close to La Tontouta airport in RG37. QSL via DJ9ZB.

HL9UH reports working FK8CR March 14 at 0335; Henri, FK8EB, April 2 at 0733; and FK8DH April 10 at 0535.

North Cook Islands: Nob ZK1AJJ (JF2MBF) is planning a flight to Penrhyn on June 11, and hopes to be there for two weeks, with 6m capability. QSL via JF2KOZ. While there, he will check in with Warwick ZK1WL. Kazu JA1RJU may be able to supply a 6m brick for Warwick, which could be delivered by a JA group that plans a trip to the Cooks in October.

Papua/New Guinea: Yoshi P29JA (ex-JG7AMD) is quite active, running an HL-166V amp and 2-element HB9CV beam. He will be there until mid-July. QSL via JH7MSB. Tnx JA1VOK.

HL9UH reports working P29CW April 3 at 1204, April 4 at 1106, April 6 at 1959, April 7 at 1105, and April 25 at 1025. He reports working P29JA on April 25 at 1002.

Philippines: HL9UH reports working N7ET/DU7 March 14 at 0850.

Pitcairn: Nob VR6JJ (JF2MBF/WK3D) finally departed in mid-May, more than a month past expectations due to the paucity of ship traffic. This DXpedition was a big success despite the minimal solar activity. Nob's initial contacts were into Japan on January 29; after that he worked 32 other countries in all continents except Europe. However, nearly every morning, he heard 48.25 video, scattering from EA/CT. Heard but not worked were CN8ST, ZD8, and FY7. QSO highlights included XQ0X, TU2EW, EA8, and S0RASD.

Considering all the F₂ he had eastward, the puzzle is that his only south Pacific contacts were two VK4's, both worked on sidescatter via KH6. He had numerous openings into the southwestern U.S., working CA-NV-AZ-NM-TX plus NOLL in Kansas, and at least one W4 opening. The 6m QSO total was about 150, of which about 35 were U.S. and an equal number in JA1-2-3-4. The 6m rig consisted of a TS-690, HL-166V amp, and 4-element Yagi up 15 meters; the use of an automated CQer certainly helped, as did Nob's good liaison on 28885. Limited time (6 hours daily) of mains power had little effect on 6m operations, due to a battery backup system. QSL via JF2KOZ, via buro or 93 Callbook.

South Cook Islands: Nob JF2MBF showed up here on 6m in early June, with the callsign ZK1AJJ. He made use of ZK1CG's 5-element beam, and immediately noted TEP into Japan and Hawaii. QSL via JF2KOZ.

News of Asia

Abu Ail, Jabal at Tair: This country (A15) is deleted as of 1991 March 31; it now counts as Yemen. Tnx INDEXA.

Asiatic Russia: JA1UT and friends were active as RZ0CZZ from April 30 to May 7, but made few, if any, contacts on 6m. Tnx JA2DDN via VK4BRG.

UW0ST in Bratsk (grid OO07) has a license for 50 MHz but no rig at present. Tnx RA3TES vis ON7YD via OZ7SIX.

Bangladesh: The Japanese UNICEF ham club had planned an operation as S21ZZ from April 30 to May 7, with 80 watts to 4 elements. It is unknown whether they made any 6m contacts. Tnx JA2DDN via VK4BRG.

India: Monty VU2EMJ is listening on 50 MHz from square MK69. He has been chatting with VK2QF and others on 28885. Monty believes it impossible to get a permit for transmitting at present, not withstanding the ongoing occasional activity by VU2AID. But he hopes that someday this will change, perhaps in Cycle 23. Anyone still interested in cross-band activity? Tnx Nev.

Iraq: YI1BGD has a 6m receiver, but no transmitter. No other details. Tnx SM7AED.

Israel: Alex, 4X1MH, made his first European contacts on 6m on May 16. G4UPS reports working him at 1625 and indicates that he worked about 10 UK stations. Grid locator KM72lt.

Kampuchea: Ross XU0UN (VK3TYN) now has an Alinco EL-6HC 80-watt amplifier, donated by JA9OGE and shipped by JA1VOK. He has worked JA, BV, VS6, YC0, P29, T30, and VK4/6/8, at least. He has RFI (from R-1 video) atop 50.110, forcing him to move up to 50.112-.113 on some occasions. He is located in northwestern XU, grid square OK14 (another report says OK13kx). Currently he is using a bidirectional rhombic beamed 139°/319°, but Pete P29CW is coaching Ross on homebrew quads, and Steve VK3OT continues efforts to send him a yagi.

Also active is XU5DX in southern Kampuchea, who has been worked on numerous occasions in Japan. Tnx JA1VOK.

JR5KQF/XU was reported into JA5 on March 7. Tnx JA1VOK.

Kazakhstan: Mike Chirkov, who has operated on 6m as UL7GCC and 4L2FA, is now using the callsign UL8GC and will do so until at least the end of 1993. QSL address: Box 1, 480113 Alma Ata, Kazakhstan. Tnx G4UPS. Mike is expected to activate rare Field MO60 between May and August. Tnx SM7AED.

The Kazakh Republic has been assigned the additional prefixes UN7, UN8, and UN9, as of March 1. Tnx OZ7SIX.

Kuwait: The club station 9K2USA was worked on 6m by ZS6WB on February 19. No further details.

Bob 9K2ZR reports that he has been receiving numerous direct QSL requests, which will be very much delayed because they all have to be shipped back to Andy K8EFS, his QSL

manager in the States. Tnx G4UPS.

Laos: Some Japanese operators were planning to operate in XW in early May. No further details.

North Korea: The P5RS7 DXpedition is reported to have worked several JA's selectively by scatter of MS on December 26-29. The frequency was 50.500 (!); why, no one seems to know. It is yet unknown whether this operation will be accredited. Tnx JA1VOK.

Ogasawara: The QSL address for JD1BFI given in the 1992 January 1 Bulletin worked fine for your editor, but at least one U.S. station has received no response. An alternative route for JD1BFI is via JA5FFJ. Tnx JA1RJU.

South Korea: Just received logs from HL9UH (WB6NMT, KG6UH/DU1), which we will distribute throughout this issue as space allows. Louie has a pipeline into Japan and VK4, too many contacts to list. Other Australian contacts include VK1BF March 14 at 1230; VK6JQ, April 3 at 1033, April 7 at 1023, May 3 at 0951, May 16 at 1007; VK6JJ May 1 at 0710; VK6YCF May 17 at 0835; VK8AH April 4 at 1050, May 1 at 1055; VK8RH April 25 at 1051; and Terry, VK8ZTM May 11 at 0936. He mentions that his ability to observe propagation is severely limited due to high horizons in most directions. SE to SSW have the lowest angles, there are still some places where it hits 3-5° even then. His address is: CAPT L N Anciaux, USNR; COMFLEACT - Chinhae; PSC 459 Box 82; FPO AP 96269-1100.

Taiwan: Larry N4VA was heard signing portable BV7 on 28885 April 24; no further details.

Louie, HL9UH, reports working Richard, BV2DP, in PL05 (Taipei) May 11 at 0958, May 14 at 0907, May 16 at 0034, May 22 at 0954; Sunny, BV3FI May 14 at 0909; Kang, BV2HS, May 17 at 1033; Rand, BV2DQ in Taipei May 22 at 0640; and Fu, BV6AS May 29 at 0152. The latter's QTH is POB 700, Tainan.

Turkmenistan: UH8EA is reportedly QRV on 6m, from 1992 December. No further details. Tnx SM7AED.

West Malaysia: 9M2HF worked JA stations on January 1 at 0145-0200Z. Tnx JA1VOK. Nothing further is known about this station, but see East Malaysia above, and note the similar callsign. Another station, 9M2CS, was reported into Japan on February 7. Tnx JG3KUT.

News of North America

Aves Island: Anyone still awaiting a card for YX0AI might try QSLing via Scott WS4E. Also, some cards which were received at Box 3636, Caracas had the return postage removed enroute; these cards are being answered via the bureau. Tnx INDEXA.

Bahamas: Bill Wiseman, KM1E, who has been very active from Abaco in the Bahamas as C6A/KM1E, has been assigned a resident callsign, C6AGN. Bill has a QSL manager for his contacts from C6, KA1DIG who is QTHR. Tnx G4UPS.

Canada: Dave K8WKZ, accompanied by Dave Jr. N8NQS and Pat N8PYO, will conduct another classy grid-pedition, this time in southwestern Quebec June 20-25. The 6m rig will have 350-400 watts into a stacked pair of 5-element yagis. The frequency will be 50.125, also monitoring 28885 and 7230 kHz. The operating schedule is 2300-0200 and 1100-1400Z, in the following grids: FN16 June 20/21, FN26 June 21/22, FN27 June 22/23, FN17 June 23/24, and FN18 June 24/25. They will also be active on 144.200, plus mobile on 6m and 2m enroute. QSL with SASE or via bureau to Dave

Bostedor, 8030 Greenes Dr., Jackson, MI 49201; special QSL's will be printed. Per Dave Jr., Dave Sr. underwent cancer surgery in March; we all hope that went well, as K8WKZ is one of our best and most important 6m men (DXCC #8, and hot on the heels of W5FF for #1 worldwide in 6m grids worked). Thanks gents, and don't forget the repellent!

NOLL has received a direct QSL from Ken VE8KM, chock-full of details. When the QSO occurred, Ken was running 15 Watts to a Cushcraft R5 vertical, but now he has 150 Watts into a 7-element KLM fixed south. He says he works 6 days/week; on work days he occasionally listens/calls on 50.125 around 0200Z (7 PM Mtn.). On Sundays, he suggests 2000 or 2030Z (1 or 1:30 PM Mtn.) His home phone is (403)983-2479; FAX (403)983-2256; FAX ID=KC Photo. Mail address: Ken Marianix, Box 110, Cambridge Bay, NT, Canada, X0E 0C0. Tnx Larry.

VO1GAP, who worked many U.K. stations on 1991 June 21, is not listed in the callbook. His details: Gary A. Parsons, Box 424, Burgeo, Newfoundland A0M 1A0, Canada. Tnx G4UPS.

Cuba: CO2LP, running 10 watts, was worked recently by VR6JJ. No further details. Tnx Nob.

Grenada: Chip W1AIM/J3 popped up in late March. He had a pipeline to VR6JJ, but reportedly worked little else. Similar results were had by Jimmy W6JKV, who operated in early April as J37AV with the usual big amplifier and long yagi. QSL to his home call.

Mexico: Another IOTA/grid-pedition to Guadeloupe Island took place in May, with the callsign XF1G. Their grid was DL09. N6XQ and several Mexican operators were active on all bands from 50 to 1296 MHz. Tnx K6QXY and W9DHK.

Pat W5OZI is planning a grid-pedition in Northern Mexico in early July.

Revillagigedo Islands: Tony XE1GRR and friends activated Clarion Island (DK28sf) with the callsign XF0C in late February. 6m QSLs go to XE1TD via callbook address, or direct to Tony: Rafael Antonio Rocha Gomez, P.O. Box 1-1785, Guadalajara, Jalisco 44100, Mexico. Tnx Tony.

St. Paul Island: A DXpedition scheduled for July 9-13 may, or may not, include 6m. Tnx K6QXY.

St. Pierre et Miquelon: Ron VE1KM works for an airline and consequently spends most of his time on these islands operating as FP/VE1KM. He is active on 6m with 8-10 Watts to a dipole, which may be upgraded soon. He now has a QSL manager: Ralph Hirsch K1RH, 172 Newton Road, Woodbridge CT 06525 USA. Tnx G4UPS.

United States: Dave N8NQS has been operating occasionally this spring from rare grid DM02 on the southern half of San Clemente Island, off Southern California. The 6m rig ran 100 watts into a SQLoop or dipole. QSL to his home callbook address.

News of South America and Antarctica

Aruba: George P43FM was here until April 8, and worked VR6JJ and numerous South Americans.

Brazil: The state of Rondonia is now active on 6m. Edenir PW8PA was worked on 50.110 CW/SSB by PY5CC on

February 4 at 0050Z. Edenir has a TS-680 and a vertical antenna. QSL to P O Box 84, Porto Velho, 78900 Rondonia, Brazil. Tnx Peter. Rand McNally shows that city at 8°45'S 63°43'W, which would be square FI81, far west in the Amazon's headwater region.

Fernando de Noronha: PY5CC was QRV here with his new callsign PY0FM from March 4 to April 1. He is known to have worked VR6JJ and some South Americans, but nobody seems to have heard him on 28885. QSL via PY5CC at Box 7, Matinhos PR 83260-000, Brazil. Tnx Peter.

Peter I Island: Current plans are for the VP8SSI group to operate here for 16 days beginning 1994 February 1. More information can be had from AA6BB or KA7V. Tnx W1AW.

Trindade and Martim Vaz Is: PY5CC is trying to get a permit to operate at PY0T. If this happens, the duration will have to be for a couple of months or a couple of days, due to transportation schedules (sounds like Pitcairn and Tokelau). Tnx Peter.

News of Europe

Andorra: Fred C31HK should by now be QRV with a new RN electronics transverter running 25 watts into a delta loop. Restrictions do not allow the installation of a beam at this time. His QTH is 4400 feet ASL with a clear take off to the north; the south is not a good direction. QSL only via OZ7SIX. He has a 6m permit. Tnx JA1VOK.

The grapevine says that G3WOS's QSL from the 1986 DXpedition by G4UPS to C31 was approved for 6m DXCC credit.

VHF-UHF DXer 5/93 reports that C31HK has worked into the UK a number of times recently, and (keeping with the French bandplan) will only be found above 50.200.

Belarus: G4UPS reports working Ben, UC2AA on cw on 13 May at 0925 during a widespread sporadic-E opening. August, DK5UG reports working him on SSB (LSB!!) when he was using the callsign EV8A. Ben also worked GW3LDH and G2ADR during the opening. Grid locator for UC2AA is KO33, and his QSL manager is F6AML, Serge Chojnacki, PO Box 40, F-77120 Coulommiers, France.

A major operation is planned to UC from June 20 to July 2. The calls will be EV5D and EV5K in grid KO42, then EV5M and EV5N in grid KO41. Activity frequencies will be 50.095, 50.145, 50.165, and 50.215; a beacon will run on 50.077 during times of inactivity. They will also be QRV on 28885 and 14345. The planner is DL5BAC (to whom QSLs should be sent; other operators will be DJ9YE, DL5BAC, UC2AKP, the crew of UC1AWZ and perhaps UC2AAB. Sergej UC2AKP was instrumental in securing the 6m licenses. Tnx OZ7SIX.

Czechoslovakia: Effective 1993 January 1, this DXCC country is deleted and replaced by the Czech Republic (OK-OL) and the Republic of Slovakia (OM), q.v. Tnx INDEXA.

Czech Republic: This new country, comprising Bohemia and Moravia, came into existence on 1993 January 1, and is acceptable for DXCC credit from that date (submit cards after June 1). It continues to use the OK1, OK2, and OL prefixes. QSLs may be submitted for DXCC credit after June 1. The Czech Republic QSL bureau remains the same as for Czechoslovakia. G4UPS submits the following list of stations worked on 6m from what is now the Czech Republic:

JN79: OK1DAC, OK1MAC, OK1MDK
 JN88: OK2BBT
 JN89: OK2BKA, OK2BRCV, OK2JI, OK2KK, OK2PZW,
 OK2ZZ
 JN99: OK2BDQ, OK2BTI, OK2PWR, OK2SBL
 JO60: OK1DDO, OK1FAV, OK1FFD, OK1IBL
 JO70: OK1DIG, OK1MJL
 Tnx Ted and INDEXA.

European Russia: RA3A in Moscow may be activated in July by UL8GC/RL2B (ex-UL7GCC). Tnx SM7AED.

G4UPS reports hearing Russian Military signals on 50.134 May 8 between 0745 and 0810. Around this time he was also working or hearing SM7AED, OZ1IBL, and OE2UKL.

Iceland: LA6HL will sign TF/LA6HL July 9 to 29. Tnx OZ7SIX.

Ibeza: Dave Court (G3SDL), OZSDL, will operate as EH4BG/6, with a special 6m permit from Ibeza between June 19 and July 3, grid square JM09. Dave requests QSL cards either via OZ3SDL or direct to: Dave Court, Egebakken 18, DK-3520 Farum, Denmark. Tnx G4UPS.

Italy: Angelo D'Anna, I2ADN, was to operate 6m from a very rare grid square, JN51, during the UKSMG contest on June 5. QSL either via the bureau or direct to Angelo D'Anna, Via Ortigara 19, I-22070 Casnate Con Bernate, ITALY. Tnx G4UPS.

PY5CC reported working IK8DYD on 6m during the widespread European Es opening of May 12 prior to 1955. Tnx G4UPS.

Jan Mayen: An ICOM IC505 6m rig was delivered in April to JX3EX for his use until he returns to Norway in August. A 3-element yagi is also now up in JX, and it is hoped that JX3EX can use it. QSLs for JX3EX will probably go via LA5NM, but that needs to be confirmed. JX7DFA departed in April. Tnx G4UPS.

JX3ER is QRV with 100 Watts and 5 elements. Tnx JA1VOK.

Kaliningrad: UA2/DK2ZF will be active June 27 to July 7. QSL to DK2ZF callbook address. Tnx OZ7SIX.

Liechtenstein: The DL group was planning activity as HB0/DA1WA between May 28 and June 6. QSL via DJ0LC. Tnx OZ7SIX.

Lithuania: LY93BDX is the callsign for a ham camp between July 24 and August 4, evidently to be QRV on 6m. Tnx OZ7SIX.

Macedonia: This new DXCC country (old prefixes 4N5 and YU5) is now acceptable for credit retroactive to 1991 September 8. Cards may be submitted after June 1. Tnx INDEXA.

Market Reef: A 6m OJ0 operation may have occurred in February; sources differ on details.

Poland: A general release of the 6m band to Polish Class A and B operators became effective from 1993 January 15. The power limit is 10 watts SSB/CW with no antenna restrictions. This allocation was made after studying the results of the activities by last year's special permittees, who are to be congratulated on their pioneering efforts. Unfortunately, the authorities are charging the equivalent of US\$160 for a 6m permit; attempts are being made to have this reduced. Kris SP4TKK, in a recent QSO with G4UPS, noted that his mother

SP4EE and father SP4KM are competing with him for use of the 6m rig! On January 17, G4UPS worked SP5CCC in KO02 and SP4TKK in KO03; on February 15 he also heard SP5HEJ. Tnx Ted.

Chris, SP4TKK/2 gave a number of UK stations a new grid square, JO92iz, on May 21. QSL via his father, Waldemar, SP4KM, who is QTHR.

Romania: Doru YO4BZC is new on 6m, in KN45ak. QSL to Dorin Iatan, Box 82, R-6200 Galati, Romania. Tnx G4UPS.

Slovakia: The Republic of Slovakia came into existence on 1993 January 1, and will be accepted for DXCC credit from that date (submit cards after June 1). Slovakia has replaced the OK3 prefix with OM3 and is awaiting a completely new callsign allocation from the ITU. The new Slovakian QSL manager is Harry Cincura OMEA, and the address is S.A.R.A. QSL Bureau, P O Box 1, 85299 Bratislava, Rep. of Slovakia. G4UPS sends this list of stations worked on 6m from what is now Slovakia:

JN86: OM3CM
 JN88: OM3ID, OM3LQ, OM3LU
 JN98: OM3TTF
 JN99: OM3CLS
 KN08: OM3OM

Tnx Ted and INDEXA.

Slovenia: Branko S57CC (ex-YU3GO) has moved to a new QTH: Branko Zemljak, Postna 7B, SLJ-61360 Vrhnika, Slovenia. Tnx G4UPS.

Also thanks to Ted, here is a conversion list showing old and new callsigns for Slovenian 6m stations:

old-JN65-new	old-JN75-new	old-JN76-new	old-JN86-new
YT3ET S59AM	YT3OT S52OT	YT3AU S52AU	YU3DBC S59DBC
YT3EL S53EL	YT3NR S52NR	YU3EA S57MM	YU3IT S57MC
YT3YL S59YL	YU3OT S51OT	YU3ER S51ER	YU3IX S51IX
YU3AN S57AN		YU3FO S53FO	YU3KV S51KV
YU3BH S53BH		YU3GO S57CC	YU3ZM S54ZM
YU3CN S51CN		YU3OV S57AC	YU3ZO S51ZO
YU3DAN S59DAN		YU3SE S51GW	YU3ZW S53ZW
YU3DKS S59DKS		YU3UF S51UF	
YU3TG S57AV			
YU3XY S59AX			

Spain: Beginning next year, all EA first-class licensees will be allowed to operate on 6m. Tnx VR6JJ.

Svalbard: LA1QCA was QRV on 50.110 as JW1QCA between April 20 and May 5. QSL via LA1QCA. Tnx OZ7SIX.

Sweden: SM3NRY is now active in the rare square JP82qe. QSL to Thomas Gillgren, Linneaqatan 19d, S-85251 Sundsvall, Sweden. Tnx SM7AED via G4UPS.

Switzerland: Regarding rumors that HB9 stations are now allowed to use 6m at all hours, Pierre HB9QQ says, "this information is totally wrong?our new permits, which expire at the end of 1994 allow 6m operations only during TV OFF hours." Tnx G4UPS.

Ukraine: Mike King, G3MY, reports UB5BW answered his CQ on May 24 at 1245, giving his own callsign quite a few times in good, slow CW. Mike responded with a 558 report, but had no further response. UB5BW is located in Odessa, which must just about be the limit of a double-hop sporadic-E contact. Tnx G4UPS.

United Kingdom: The RSGB has announced that, starting in February, UK Novice licensees have had access to the full 50-52 MHz band. So there is no longer any need to look for them above 51 MHz. Tnx G4UPS.

Vatican: HV4NAC should now be QRV on 6m from North American College, Vatican. No further details. Tnx SM7AED.

News of Africa

Algeria: 7X2KT has a 6m license, and is building equipment. Tnx SM7AED.

Ascension Island: In a 20m chat with his friend T20AA, ZD8VJ said he has 6m equipment, but is not known to have made any contacts.

ZD8LII is still active on 6m; he worked EA8/DJ3OS several times recently. Tnx G4UPS via SM7AED.

Ceuta and Melilla: EH9IB has received a 25-Watt amplifier from G3KOX. Tnx SM7AED.

Ethiopia: Frank ET3DX in Addis Ababa (KJ99) was worked in Malta on 6m on April 11 at 1254Z. His QSL route is via JH1AJT. Tnx 9H5EE via OZ7SIX.

Glorioso: An FR/DJ3OS/G QSL card submitted by ON5KST for 6m DXCC credit was rejected?the reason: 'no documentation received.' This was for the operation in 1992 May. Tnx Alain. The rumor mill puts it more plainly: FR/G was illegal.

Madagascar: Mako JA1OEM activated 5R8DP, including 6m, for about a month starting in late March. As usual, he ran a CQer on 50.123 (listening up 50 kHz at times). The rig was an FT-650 and 5 elements. He did make a few contacts into western Japan. Mako has been practicing CW, so you can work him on both modes on future DXpeditions. Tnx VR6JJ and JA1VOK.

A 6m rig and plans for a 3-element beam have been shipped to 5R8DG in LH31. If you get lucky, QSL to Antoine Baldeck F6FNU, P O Box 14, F-91291 Arpajon Cedex, France. Tnx G4UPS and JA1VOK.

G4UPS reports hearing S59UN working 5R8DG on May 12 at 1745. Hal could not hear the 5R8.

Madeira: CT3FT is expecting to be QRV all summer from IM13ta, with 150 Watts and 3 elements. Tnx SM7AED.

Malawi: G4UPS reports hearing 7Q7JL and 7Q7CM under EH QRM May 12 1822.

Morocco: Mike, CN8CC has been quite active recently, with the help of Tarik, CN8ST. Mike's QSL route is via F6FNU only. In addition, CN8BA and CN8HB are also active on 6m from Morocco.

Mozambique: Hal ZS6WB is preparing a Swan 250 and 6m antenna to be sent to John CR9JJ. John is with the U.S. Embassy in Maputa (KG64); his home call is WA4WKY, and his QSL route is via W8GIO only. Tnx G4UPS.

Somalia: Nick G3KOX was active in February from Mogadiscio (LJ22), signing 6O/G3KOX. On 6m he had 100 Watts and 4 elements. QSL to his home callsign. Tnx G4UPS.

Western Sahara: S0RASD was active in late February and early March on 50.110; they worked PY5CC and VR6JJ, at least. HCJB-HRT gives the QSL route as via EA2JG.

S01NVC in JO73 was active on 6m on May 1 and 2. Tnx OZ7SIX.

Beacon News

Alaska: As of February, AL7C had his beacon working, and was looking for a TVI-free location for it. Tnx NL7OW.

Anguilla: The Anguilla Amateur Radio Society has established a new beacon, VP2A, on 50.011 MHz. It runs 50 Watts into an unknown antenna up 175 feet. They are anxious for reports during the current sporadic-E season; these may be sent (with return postage) to A.A.R.S. Emergency Services, Box DX, The Valley, Anguilla, Windward Islands, Caribbean. Thanks to Jack N6XQ and Terry N6CW for providing the equipment. Tnx Rob Girardi via CIDX via Glenn Hauser.

Australia: VK4RIK/b on 52.445 from Cairns has been silent since mid-1992. Tnx VK4ZJR. Also VK4RBM down the coast at Lamberts Beach on the same frequency has apparently been inactive for about one year now. But the faithful VK4BRG and VK8VF beacons continue their precious operations.

Azores: PY5CC heard the CU3URA/b on 50.013 for the first time in mid-March. This seems to be the only report of it in over a year. Tnx Peter.

Canary Islands: Bob, EH5CHN reports hearing a new 6m beacon, EA8SIX, on 50.075 MHz. Bob believes the beacon was being run by EA8ACW. EA3ADW reports that the beacon power is 10 Watts and grid locator IL28. Tnx G4UPS.

Cyprus: G4UPS reports hearing 5B4CY May 12 1841-1900.

Fiji: The 3D2FJ machine was knocked off the air by the second of two major cyclones that hit Fiji a few months ago. It remains off, but should be restored soon. Tnx 3D2PO.

Jamaica: Wenty 6Y5IC says that his keyer is non-functional. However, LU7DZ reported hearing a 6Y5IC beacon on about 50.090 on March 13.

Lebanon: The OD5SIX/b vertical antenna was yielding a high SWR and consequently the transmitter was running hot. So Samir OD5SK has cured that problem with a new homebrew ground-plane vertical. On February 24, ZS6WB reported loud reception of this beacon. On May 12, G4UPS reported hearing this beacon 589 between 1841-1900. Tnx G4UPS.

Marshall Islands: Pat NH6UY claims that the V73AX machine on Kwajalein was working when he visited in January. We're all puzzled about this, because everyone in the Pacific who used to constantly hear it agrees that it is quite silent; no trace, even on the rare occasions when we do hear V73SG.

Mexico: W9DHK provides further details regarding the new XE2UZL beacon. The power output is constant at 20 Watts; the duty cycle is varied according to battery voltage. During the long dash in the transmission, the voltage is measured, and then it is broadcast like this: one dot = 11 Volts, two dots = 12 Volts, and three dots = 13 Volts. Then a Morse numeral is transmitted which represents the tenths-of-Volts. Pretty slick! Soon the antenna will be changed to a vertical atop the tower. Tnx Peter.

A late May update says that N6XQ has acquired some SQLoops for XE2UZL/b, but discovered that water throws the tuning way off, due to the super-high-Q nature of the SQLoop, and is working on possible solutions. Tnx K6QXY.

Morocco: CN6VHF beacon is now on the air on 50.093 in IM64 with 8 Watts to a 5/8 λ vertical. Tnx JA1VOK.

Can anyone confirm?

Philippines: The G4SMC/9M6 team reports the DX7HG beacon in PK04 was audible 80% of the time. Tnx VUDX.

Portugal: G4UPS, logging CT0WW 449 on May 12 at 1054 notes that the beacon now has a directional antenna, not aimed at UK.

United States: A note from Bill W0BJ to KA3B states that his 50.070 beacon is "not operational now—too many cordless telephones." Tnx Harry.

Alternative Liaison Frequencies

Several suggestions have been made in the past few years for lower frequencies for 6m liaison, as 28885 is not always open. Various 15-meter frequencies have been suggested; for example, Arnie CO2KK has proposed 21440. Others have suggested 14345, which is used on Sundays for E-M-E coordination. The main obstacle is getting widespread agreement and publicity for a new frequency. It won't work unless we can find a way to advise the isolated small-country operators, who typically don't monitor 28885 continuously, nor do they have ongoing access to any of the periodicals. The awareness of 28885 has built slowly over a period of many years, and the same would be true of any new proposed frequency. During the transition period, we would have to dedicate two receivers to monitoring.

28885 has had the great advantage of inactivity other than 6m liaison (once we chased away the Cliff-Dwellers and the W6IRT/b). Listening around 21440 and 14345 shows relatively heavy usage for many purposes in many languages, and the same seems true for every amateur SSB frequency between 3.5 and 21.5 MHz. So it would be rather aggravating to keep a receiver on the new frequency and have it filled with constant co- and adjacent-channel activity unrelated to 6m. One other point in favor of 28885 is that it is open far more often than it is given credit for. Here, in late May, for example, a quick tune below 28300 most days reveals many beacons propagating nicely. Yet only one or two stations per day are heard on 28885 (and, for that matter, the DX frequencies around 28500 are sadly underused lately). On May 23, ace DXer K8WKZ was armchair copy here in Hawaii on both 50.105 and 28885, but hardly anyone else was present on the latter. This fallacy that 10m is not usually open was one why NI6E/KH6 put so much energy into keeping the fires burning on 28885 in 1989-92, but, alas, the shortage of power now prevents that, and nobody else in the Pacific region has been willing to shoulder that responsibility.

Notwithstanding all the above, the idea of a lower frequency for the "lean years" is worth further consideration. If it is to have any success, it will probably need to be taken up by some active regional group, as happened a decade ago with 28885 and the South Florida 6m group. Perhaps this should be placed on the agenda for the next CSVHF conference; if there is a real consensus there, that fact will provide impetus for a campaign of global publicity via the periodicals. There should probably be an explicit date chosen well in advance when everyone would QSY to the new frequency from 28885. And, of course, we would want to return to 28885 when Solar Cycle 23 starts rising, phoenixlike, from the ashes of sunspot minimum.

In some future year, I believe that these limitations of HF liaison will be solved by a move to satellites and/or landline networks for 6m liaison. Nobody has more to gain from a "global communications village" than we 6m DXers. The

Internet, for example, seems like an ideal medium for the exchange of 6m DX information, since what we are trying to do is science, and that's where scientists are communicating in real-time.

An 8-meter Band?

An interesting editorial by ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner K1ZZ in January QST discussed amateur spectrum needs for the 21st century. A portion of this editorial raises the possibility of a new 8-meter band, which has been an occasional topic of discussion by the gang on 28885. Quoting K1ZZ: "...the land mobile community...is not putting much emphasis on frequencies below 50 MHz. The low-band environment is considered too noisy for their future systems... This may be good news for us. There is no reason to treat 30 MHz as a "Berlin Wall" separating HF from VHF. Experience has shown that HF-like propagation frequently extends well above 30 MHz, if not all the way to 50 MHz, and the Amateur Service would benefit greatly from an extension into this range of the 'family of frequencies' concept that works so well for us at HF. The rationale for new amateur allocations between 30 and 50 MHz, which has been developed...and is being given its first public airing in our comments to the NTIA, is definitely worth exploring in the coming years... Moving from long-range planning to the implementation of a new allocation will take years, if not decades. But as we know from our WARC-79 experience, the journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step—and if you keep going in the right direction, you'll eventually reach your destination."

This is good news indeed for us 6m DXers—8m could serve us both as an early-warning indicator, and as a way to pass those many hours when the MUF is close, but not quite, up to 50 MHz. I recommend that readers who are also members of ARRL or their own national societies make the most of opportunities for encouraging this move to open an 8-meter amateur band.—NI6E

Closing Remarks From NI6E/KH6

On behalf of the entire 6m community worldwide, I would like to express appreciation to the builders and operators of 6m beacons. These essential machines have opened many new paths in Cycle 22 that would otherwise would have gone unnoticed for decades. All of us could tell stories of new countries we have worked as a direct, immediate, result of hearing a beacon. In addition, many new 6m DXers setting up their rig for the first time have been able to use a beacon, near or far, to gain confidence that it actually works. Last, but not least, the scientific payoff has been inestimable, giving us new insights into the workings of the ionosphere. I would like to spotlight Ron VK4BRG and the team of Jack N6XQ/Bernardo XE2HWB for the new beacons they have installed in critical locations, and which have operated with 100% reliability ever since. *Mahalo!*

This is the last Bulletin issue compiled here in Hawaii. I hope you will all welcome Vic in his new role, and support him with input from far and wide, as you have done for me. I would especially like to thank the following 6m stalwarts, who have gone the extra mile to ferret out and share 6m DX information on a regular basis: Bob ZL4AAA, Harry KA3B, Hat JA1VOK, Peter PY5CC, Ted G4UPS, John 9H5EE, and Cliff ZL1MQ. Thanks also to the many readers who have sent words of encouragement. *Aloha* to all of you.

As publisher, I would like to thank Shel for his efforts on behalf of the Bulletin and 6m DX, and a check for subscriptions received since January. — VRF